



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 5 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
5 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The Soviets are continuing the slow process of reducing their visible presence. Soviet troops apparently have vacated radio and television stations in Prague but still occupy several newspaper offices. They are said to be planning to complete their withdrawal from the center of Prague today, but large concentrations of armor and troops were seen in downtown areas yesterday.

Pravda warned yesterday that Soviet forces had to remain in the country, citing "counterrevolutionary" activity as the reason.

In other Eastern European capitals, uncertainty over Soviet intentions is keeping tensions high. There is still no good evidence, however, that the Soviets are planning further military moves.

2. Israel

Daily firefights continue along the cease-fire line with Jordan. Last week there were incidents on the previously quiet Syrian frontier. In addition, terrorist bombs exploded yesterday in Tel Aviv. This was the first major incident in Tel Aviv, although bombings occurred last month in Jerusalem.

Israel probably is considering another major reprisal strike against some Arab state. Algeria's release of the hijacked Israeli plane has removed one restraint. The United Nations Security Council is now considering Israel's complaint against Egypt, however, and this may hold the Israelis back for the moment.

3. Philippines

Marcos has now approved the maintenance of the Philippine contingent in Vietnam at a strength of 1,500 men. In the absence of a congressional appropriation, money will be supplied from regular defense department funds. Marcos intends to resubmit the appropriation bill when congress convenes again, probably in November.

4. Soviet Union

The Soviets on Sunday successfully completed the eighth test of their largest space capsule--the Soyuz. This may be the final one before scheduling another manned flight. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] there was no evidence of any attempt to rendezvous and dock with another spacecraft.

The Soyuz spacecraft has not been manned since its third flight in April 1967, when Cosmonaut Komarov was killed on its re-entry.

5. Soviet Union

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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6. Ethiopia

The country has made its first military purchase from the Soviet Union. The air force will probably be getting two large Soviet helicopters [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] For some time the Soviets have been pushing their helicopters, with which they can compete favorably, in the Free World.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Report on Truck Traffic Through Laos: Truck traffic moving south through Mu Gia Pass was 80 percent higher during the first eight months of 1968 than for

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the same time frame in 1967. The following table shows comparisons:

	<u>Average Number of Trucks per Day</u>	
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
January	22	25
February	34	41
March	16	37
April	30	52
May	16	17
June	3	19
July	0	15
August	0	11*

* For the period 1-27 August

Another notable feature is that this year, for the first time, traffic has continued during the monsoon season. The North Vietnamese have made extensive road improvements during the dry season.

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Flood Plan: The North Vietnamese are conducting a post mortem on the recent floods.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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